

January 17, 2003

Honorable Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW - Portals II, TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Secretary:

Forwarded herewith are Reply Comments of the Maine Public Utilities Commission in the above docket with regard to the Recommended Decision of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Regarding the Non-Rural High Cost Support Mechanism.

Should you have additional questions, you may contact Joel B. Shifman, the primary staff person in this docket, at (207) 287-1381.

Sincerely,

Joel B. Shifman
Maine Public Utilities Commission
242 State Street
18 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0018
(207) 287-1381

JBS/llp
Enclosure